

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Pupil Transportation Advisory Committee

Management and Best Practices

Introduction:

Global Positioning Systems (GPS) offer many benefits in assisting school transportation operations achieve their mission. A variety of systems exist with varying capabilities. These systems offer not only positioning information in nearly real time and/or delayed time, but also vehicle position history, travel route, with speed and time, student identification, emergency alert, and automated accident notification. Recognizing that many systems are available that provide this information, and further, that this information is valuable in efficiently managing the school bus fleet, and further, that standardization of minimum information across the State of Michigan would be beneficial to school districts, the Pupil Transportation Advisory Committee recommends the Michigan Department of Education adopt the following as a recommended best practice for GPS equipment purchasing guidelines.

GPS Equipment Purchase Best Practices

Recognizing that Global Positioning Systems (GPS) equipped school buses offer improved security for students as well as other valuable bus fleet service and management efficiency information, the Department of Education recommends that school districts that choose to purchase GPS equipment for their fleets, consider equipment with the following capabilities:

- ❑ Automatic Vehicle Location (AVL)
- ❑ Near real time track and locate
- ❑ Vehicle position history
- ❑ Travel route history
- ❑ Integration with the routing software
- ❑ Vehicle speed and time
- ❑ Student rider identification
- ❑ Emergency notification (driver activated)
- ❑ Automated accident notification
- ❑ Idle time report